



WILBORNE AND CRANBORNE

RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

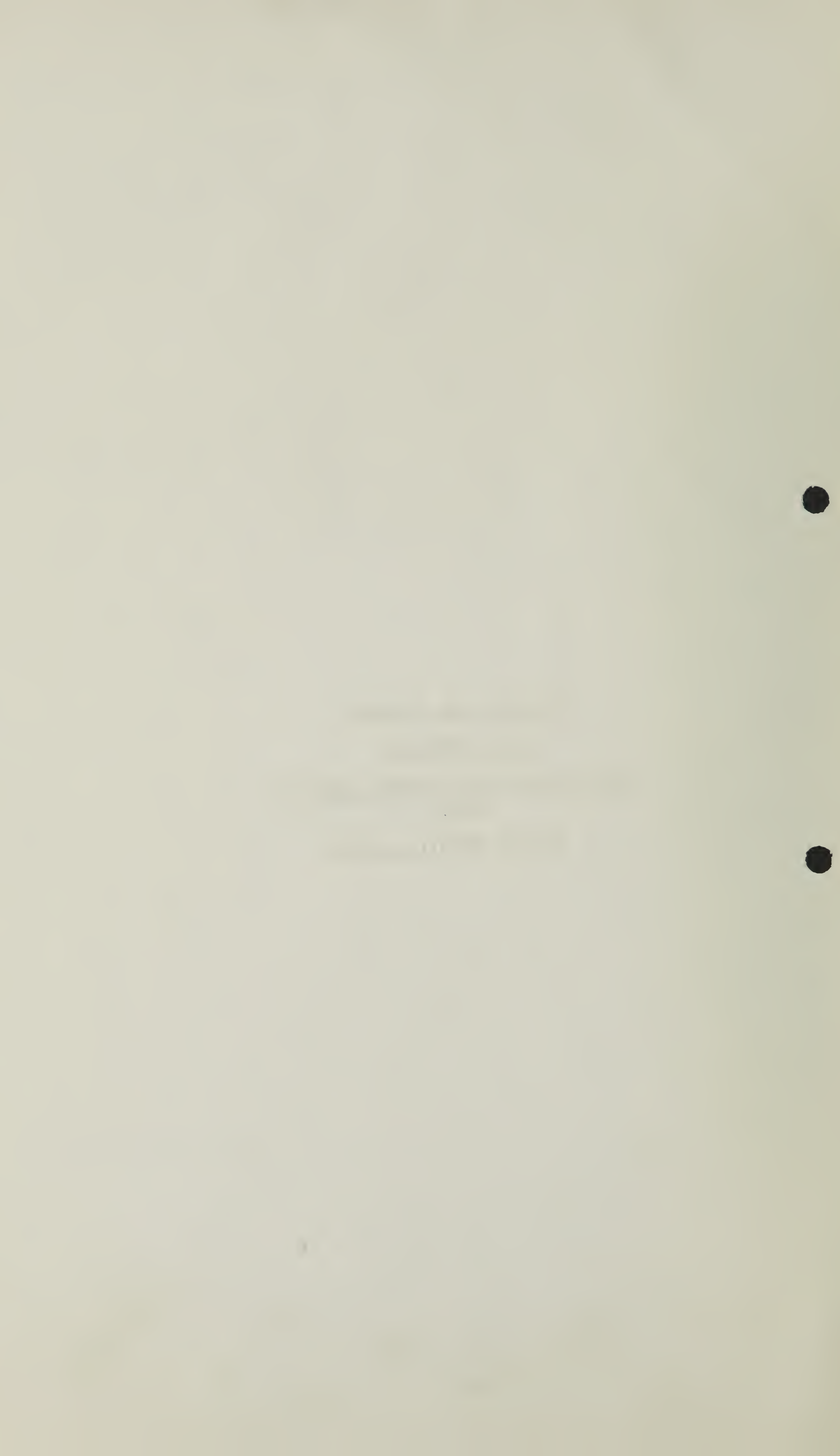
FOR THE YEAR..... 1959

WILBORNE AND CRANBORNE

RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR..... 1959



WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1959

CHAIRMAN: -.....	Councillor Cmdr.H.S.Greenlaw.
VICE-CHAIRMAN: -.....	Councillor Mrs. R.Somerset.

COUNCILLORS:-

E. G. Brickell	J.C. Sheasby
Revd. W.R. Buckett.	S.J. Sturney
G.P. Burt.	T.H. Sutton.
J. Cheyne.	Mrs.L.M. Tattersall.
T.W.S. Garnham.	D.C. Trehane.
Mrs. A.L. Goddard.	Colonel W.E. Vaudrey
R. Parke.	Colonel P.J.K. Warren
A.R. Priddle.	Colonel H.C. Wheatley

W. L. Young.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer.	}	5/11th of time.
School Medical Officer.		
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.	}	6/11th of time.
Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.		
Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.		
Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.		

contributing roughly:-

Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.
Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week.
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W.R. Chick. M.A.P.H.I. M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F. Boam. M.R.S.H.

MEAT INSPECTORS:-

A. Holmes. M.R.S.H.

R.E. Hargreaves. M.R.S.H.

Civic Centre,

Wimborne.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my
Annual Report for the year, 1959.

The report is prepared strictly in accordance
with the Regulations, and incorporates details supplied by your
Chief Public Health Inspector.

G.B. Hopkins.

Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	80, 863.
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....	27, 720
Total estimated number of inhabited houses.....	8, 618
Rateable value at 1st April, 1959.....	£255, 384
Estimated product of ld rate, 1st April, 1959.....	£1, 000.11.9.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>As supplied by the Registrar General</u>			<u>COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.</u>		
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>W.C.R.D.C.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Admin- astrative County.</u>
Total registered.....	449	241	208			
Legitimate.....	425	223	202			
Illegitimate.....	24	18	6			
Standardised Rate.....				18.9	16.5.	14.6
Illegitimate Live Births. Percent of Total Live Births.				5.4%		
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>						
Total registered.....	9	8	1			
Legitimate.....	6	5	1			
Illegitimate.....	3	3	-			
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.....				19.7	20.7	18.46
Total Live and Stillbirths.....	458					
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>						
<u>Deaths under one year.</u>						
Total registered.....	10	5	5			
Legitimate.....	9	4	5			
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1			
<u>Infant Mortality Rates.</u>						
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births.....				22.3	22.0	17.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births.....				21.2		17.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births.....				41.7		26.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4/52 per 1000 total live births).....				17.8		
Early neo-natal mortality Rate. (deaths under 1/52 per 1000 total live births).....				13.4		
Perinatal Mortality Rate(stillbirth) and deaths under 1/52 combined, per 1000 total live and stillbirths.....				32.8		
Maternal Mortality.....				Nil.		
<u>DEATHS - (all ages)</u>						
Total.....	310	157	153			
Standardised Rate.....				10.8	11.6	12.4

SECTION A
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area..... 80, 863
Population..... (mid year)..... 25, 720

This is an increase of 710 since 1958, or a percentage growth of 2.8

DEATHS

310 deaths have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, giving a standardised death rate of 10.8.

BIRTHS

449 births have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, yielding a standardised rate of 18.9 per 1000 population, which is appreciably higher than the rate for the whole county and higher than that for the country.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying under the age of one year was 10, and it will be observed that the death rate for illegitimate children up to one year of age was practically double that for legitimate children.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths.

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating from the Civic Centre, Wimborne, and from Ferndown. A day and night service is maintained.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Boscombe and provides an excellent bacteriological service.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The County Council provided Infant Welfare Clinics in Wimborne, Ferndown, Handley, Verwood, West Moors, West Parley and Corfe Mullen.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet fever.....	20
Measles.....	145
Pneumonia.....	14
Whooping cough.....	13
Tuberculosis.....	12
Dysentery.....	3
Erysipelas.....	7
Puerperal Pyrexia..	1
Food Poisoning.....	3

218

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

PULMONARY

Males..... 71
Females..... 58

NON-PULMONARY

Males..... 7
Females..... 9

The very low figures for non-pulmonary tuberculosis are witness to the vastly improved methods of handling milk in recent years, notably by pasteurisation. The advent of tuberculin tested dairy herds should largely eliminate this form of tuberculosis. In this respect we have come a very long way from the days when 20,000 persons per year in this island contracted non-pulmonary tuberculosis, almost entirely from infected milk.

TUBERCULOSIS (Contd.)

1860 persons attended a Mass Radiography Unit stationed in Winborne. Eight of these cases were referred for investigation and three cases were considered active. This incidence would suggest that there were likely to be about fifty unrecognised cases of active T.B. in the combined populations of the urban and rural districts, assuming a very slightly greater incidence in those not presenting themselves for X Ray than in those presenting themselves.

SECTION D			
STATISTICAL TABLES..... 1959			
Cause of Death	Male.	Female.	Total
1. Tuberculosis.....(resp.)	-	2	2
2. Tuberculosis.....(other)	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	6	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..	6	1	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	14	14	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system..	23	32	55
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	36	17	53
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease.....	22	20	42
21. Other circulatory disease.....	10	9	19
22. Influenza.....	1	2	3
23. Pneumonia.....	10	6	16
24. Bronchitis.....	2	4	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	2	1	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..	1	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	12	18	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	7	1	8
34. All other accidents.....	3	3	6
35. Suicide.....	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
TOTALS.	157	153	310

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS.

<u>BOG.</u>	<u>POLIOMYELITIS.</u>		<u>DIPHTHERIA.</u>		<u>WHOOPING COUGH</u>		<u>TETANUS</u>		<u>SMALLPOX</u>	
	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
342 666	2957	3557	436	248	393	74	387	40	355	68

P = Primary course of two or three injections.
B = Booster dose of one single injection.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
Notification in Age Groups.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-9.	10-14.	15-24.	25 and over.	T.
SCARLET FEVER.	2	-	-	2	2	11	2	1	-	20
WHOOPING COUGH.	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	-	1	13
MEASLES.	2	11	9	7	13	72	27	1	3	145
PNEUMONIA.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	11	14
ERYSIPELAS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
TUBERCULOSIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	12
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

ADMINISTRATION

In August a joint meeting of representatives of the five authorities for whom I act was held.

A recommendation was made for a whole time assistant for County Council duties instead of the half time assistant already appointed in 1958, with a view to enabling me to devote to the four district councils the six elevenths of my time allocated to them. Attention was also directed to the problem of the division of this six elevenths between the various district councils, who contribute on the basis of rateable values as outlined on page 3 of this report. It was agreed that this would be left to my discretion as before. In practice it was possible to spare roughly half a day per week for all purposes connected with your district. It is regretted that this is not sufficient time for the performance of one's statutory functions in a rapidly growing district of 26,000 population with its peculiar problems. It is difficult to visit those members of the public who write to me about their problems.

Holding office for five authorities means that duties not infrequently clash and it is essential to plan well ahead in order to place commitments on an orderly basis. For this reason ample notice of extraordinary meetings or reports would be much appreciated.

Contd

There are four public health inspectors on the staff, two permanently employed on meat inspection at Uddens Abattoir, whose salaries are paid by the F.S.M.C. A part of the Chief Public Health Inspector's time is devoted to the administration of meat inspection and part of his salary is similarly paid by the F.S.M.C. The remaining public health inspector normally employed throughout the district is required to reinforce the meat inspectorate during the summer. The ordinary district work is therefore performed by significantly less than two inspectors. This is inadequate for the duties imposed by statute, orders, regulations and directions, particularly in so far as routine inspections and follow up inspections are concerned, and in those very delicate public relations sorties which are constantly required to be made in connection with widespread sewage disposal nuisances, to which reference was made in my last annual report, and which will continue for many years to come despite the rapid progress which is being made with sewage disposal schemes.

VERMINOUS PERSONS

A child in a rural village was found to have a verminous head throughout the year and was repeatedly treated at short intervals by the school nurse since no co-operation was forthcoming from the mother, who was abusive and threatening whenever approached. It was clear that the child was permanently and heavily exposed to re-infestation, and further steps became necessary in 1960 which will be reported in my next annual report. This case is a salutary one in that it reveals how some children's personal hygiene can be grossly uncared for even in this modern age, with consequent risk to other schoolchildren when science has rendered the abolition of head lice a matter of such simplicity as for instance a single pleasant shampoo. It is clear that some households can remain infested for years and the evidence come to light only when a schoolchild is involved. There are powers under Section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for dealing with verminous persons, and a disinfestation station exists in Weymouth.

FOOD POISONING

Three cases were notified. Two were probably due to poisons produced by bacterial action in a pork pie which appeared and tasted quite wholesome. The third was a contact of an outbreak of salmonella food poisoning in another county.

The majority of cases are not notified for a variety of reasons; people are naturally reluctant to give any publicity whatever to distressing symptoms, and gastro-intestinal upsets are commonly regarded and accepted without question as one of the ills which flesh is heir to. Those due to food poisoning are nevertheless preventable in theory, and a good deal of health education directed to kitchen hygiene and the methods by which foods can be inadvertently rendered heavily infected within institutions, hotels, restaurants, food processing factories and the home, would reduce the incidence of this condition. It is well to remember that the condition occasionally becomes serious and that it can take life. One death every fortnight from this cause was recorded for England and Wales in 1959.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Nil

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Hygiene in connection with sale etc., of food to the public.

"Each local authority shall enforce and execute the provisions of these regulations in their district."

The regulations lay down a very reasonable set of standards to be observed by food businesses, worked out in consultation with trade organisations and the Food Advisory Council. Hygiene

At a recent conference of the Royal Society of Health a representative of the

Ministry of Health gave a stimulating report upon his investigations into food hygiene in America. The fundamental difference between that country and our own appears to be that in America the housewife is prepared to be a very active final authority in the enforcement of hygiene in the retail handling of food. The English housewife appears to prefer the responsibility to fall mainly on the Local Authority.

A complaint was heard during the year that a food shop was taken over by new owners, who found the premises to be heavily cluttered with rubbish in which several mice nests were found. Apart from the general implications of such a state of affairs, mice are notorious potential carriers of food poisoning organisms, and it is fervently to be hoped that this state of affairs was solitary in incidence. In the absence of adequate staff for routine inspection one is reduced to that one of the three blessings which springs eternal. This is not to suggest that the remaining two are lacking in this context.

MILK SUPPLIES

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for the registration of dairy farms and the supervision of milk production, except with regard to the Regulations on diseases communicable to man.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, came into operation on the 8th March, 1959, amending previous legislation. In so far as these new Regulations affect the Medical Officer of Health (Part VII), certain changes from former legislation merit attention. Notifiable diseases now include food poisoning. Provision is made for the local authority to pay compensation to a person who sustains damage or loss through being debarred by the Medical Officer of Health from certain employment connected with milk because he is suffering or has been in contact with a person who is suffering from a disease liable to cause infection of milk. Compensation will now be payable to a dairy farmer who has suffered loss or damage as a result of being served with an infected milk notice only when the notice has been wrongly served, or has not been withdrawn as soon as possible.

Persons engaged in the milking of cows or otherwise having access to milk in open containers must wear clean and washable head covering and overalls. Open cuts must be kept covered with a waterproof dressing and spitting and the use of tobacco is prohibited. Occupiers of dairies and dairy farms must provide first aid equipment.

Waterproof dressings should now feature in all first aid boxes in food and dairy premises. This requirement is reasonable, firmly based on logic, and its observation costs a few pence only.

As before, the final onus of notifying the Medical Officer of Health of any notifiable disease remains with the occupier of premises.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1959.

In April, 1959, the district became a designated area in which the following types only of milk could be sold:-

Tuberculin Tested.
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised (Red caps) .
Pasteurised.
Sterilised.

THE ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1959.

No manufacturing for sale is done in the district.

MEAT INSPECTION

Two Meat Inspectors who work under the authority of the Council are permanently employed at Uddens Abattoir where meat inspection is on a 100% basis.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

789 Tins Miscellaneous Goods.
 6 Tins Corned Beef.
 4 Ducklings.

SAMPLING OF FROZEN FOODSTUFFS.

The Public Health Committee passed a resolution requesting that deep frozen packaged foodstuffs should be sampled with a view to detecting staleness. It was pointed out at the time that this was not technically possible, but 87 packages were purchased during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory where they were examined instead for food poisoning organisms. Bearing in mind that fresh meat is itself liable to be contaminated with these organisms from time to time, and that frozen foods are often not pre-cooked, the results were surprisingly good. Emphasis is however laid on the desirability of adequate cooking time in the final preparation for the table of deep frozen meat preparations.

In fairness to the above manufacturers, a request was made for bacteriological sampling of fresh meat from your abattoir.

DISPOSAL OF MEAT CONSIDERED UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

There was a general welcome in January, 1959, for the Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1959, which promised to effectively deal with diseased or otherwise unfit meat from slaughterhouses or knackers' yards. When visiting the local licensed knackers, both of whom were quite willing to sterilise their meat before distribution, your public health inspector was told that the Regulations would be revoked. This later appeared in print and in due course, the day before they were due to come into operation, the Regulations were revoked.

This meant that housewives could continue to purchase pet meat without any conception of its potentially diseased nature, which can range from major tuberculosis infection, infestation with tape worm cysts, inflammatory infections associated with purulent wounds, to simple bruising. The practice of staining unfit meat with a green dye is not foolproof since the stain is superficial and might sometimes be removable, but it is in any case a singularly poor "label", being open to any interpretation anyone cares to place upon it, for instance, that it indicates horse meat or goat meat, otherwise quite wholesome, or that it was pronounced unfit for human consumption for some trivial reason such as bruising. It could even be interpreted by some as a sterilising process in itself.

It is maintained that the housewife is entitled to be protected from purchasing diseased meat for her pets, and many almost certainly imagine that they are already. The only really satisfactory and safe method of protection is by sterilisation before distribution and this need entail merely a larger version of the housewife's pressure cooker.

It seems improbable that Shakespeare had germs in mind when he wrote: - "Infected be the air whereon they ride," it seems more probable, despite the immense erudition of the bard, that he merely wished to assign all evil to the witches, for it was another 300 years before Pasteur discovered a germ. However, Shakespeare knew what to do with rejected meat and said so, succinctly, in the witches incantation: -

"burn fire,
 cauldron bubble."

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948, empowers the Council, where the Medical Officer of Health certifies that removal is necessary, to take defined steps to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises. This section required at least a week and in practice longer, to put into operation, and it soon became obvious that the procedure was too protracted to deal with emergencies. The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, was designed to facilitate procedure under these circumstances, and where he is authorised by a Council, the Medical Officer of

Contd...

Health may himself apply to a magistrate for an Order enabling quick removal in circumstances of dire emergency.

Action under the above powers is regarded by your Medical Officer of Health as a very last resort. Pleasanter methods of dealing with such cases are nearly always possible, and much can be done, by providing domestic help, to keep old persons in their own homes. Even a year or two of independent existence won in this way seems much preferable to an alternative which the present generation of old people still regard as having an aura of the workhouse.

Militating against keeping old people in their homes is the worn-out condition of many of those homes, which are unduly burdensome by reason of lack of amenity and light, and the presence of dampness, disrepair and structural defects.

The medico-social impact of old age is growing. In 1901, one in twenty-one of the population was over 65.

In 1954 -- one in nine of the population was over 65.

In 1975 it is estimated that one in seven of the population will be over 65.

WATER SUPPLY

This is supplied by the Bournemouth Water Company and Poole Corporation (now the East Dorset Water Board.) The Bournemouth Company provided the major part of the district's supply, while Poole Borough supplied Corfe Mullen and Sturminster Marshall. Liaison with the Bournemouth Water Company was good.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

It is understood that planning proceeded on future schemes. Engineering works on the West Parley scheme were completed, and work on the South side of Ferndown was well in hand.

FERNDOWN AND WEST MOORS - Proposed Sewerage Scheme.

The area comprised in this scheme consists of a heavily urbanised rural district inhabited predominantly by persons who have no familiarity with rural living. Many of them are relative strangers to Dorset, having sought out an attractive area of the country in which to live. They are strangers to drainage problems and their initiation to them follows their establishment in this district.

They have for long regarded the water in the tap as a totem, the bathroom plugs, sink plugs and S bends as their private terminals in the journey of the waste water, and all that lies beyond is taboo.

We are very familiar with the hackneyed aphorism, "The Englishman's Home is his Castle," but it nevertheless conveys a fundamental truism; any factor which assails the integrity and security of the home is a potent assault upon the equanimity of the householders, and to be surrounded metaphorically, in varying degree, by a moat full of sewage, is such an assault. Add the fear of disease, heightened at intervals by minor epidemics from whatever cause; fears for the safety and health of children, particularly toddlers and crawlers who are not inherently fussy where they toddle or crawl, the hostilities which are constantly being set up between

neighbours, and the bitterness and frustration arising from the inability to enjoy the comforts and even the ordinary amenities of a modern house with the consequent depreciation of values, and we have a significant factor in the determination of the local state of public health, with particular emphasis upon mental health.

It may be opportune to recall that a recent Minister of Health announced that about 20% of all general hospital beds were occupied by cases of predominantly nervous origin. From 20 to 50% of patients attending doctors' surgeries are suffering predominantly or exclusively from nervous illness. This is very costly in terms both of money and health and inadequacies in housing are potent contributory factors.

The Council are pressing ahead vigorously with a scheme for Ferndown and West Moors which will remove anxieties of the above nature from many householders.

It is understood that a policy of "free connections" will be pursued, which not only means efficiency and economy from the engineering point of view, but offers major advantages from the public health aspect. To date the council and its officers have been obliged frequently to turn a blind eye to minor offences by reason of the absence of any alternative; once a sewerage system is installed it will be practicable to enforce the Public Health Acts in relation to nuisances, and householders who have rectified their own troubles will have little sympathy with those who decline, or are tardy, to do likewise. In this way the Council might be faced with numerous infringements if householders tackled their own problems piecemeal, and it is anticipated that under these circumstances a deal of time and money would be wasted on such cases, informally, formally and even in court.

CLEANSING SERVICE

In spite of the exceptionally dry season both vehicles were working overtime almost continuously, and the provision of new sewers did not significantly ease the difficulties in the way of providing an efficient service.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES.

The number of licensed sites is seven of a total of 287 standings. 49 individual licenses have been issued. Following the pattern of earlier years your inspectors had to give much time which they could ill afford, to an effort to tackle the problem of unlicensed vans, a problem which is naturally significantly worse in an area of this nature than in many parts of the country, and therefore makes abnormal inroads into staff time.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Part of this Act became enforceable on the 31st December, 1956, giving Local Authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution, and including provisions relating to the installation of new furnaces, chimney heights, the making of building bye-laws, smoke control areas and other matters.

The remainder of the Act came into force in June, 1958, enabling the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys, the abatement of smoke nuisances and other measures.

Section 3 of the main Act requires that any person proposing to instal a furnace shall give notice of intention to do so to the Local Authority and failure to give notice is an offence.

Section 10 provides that when plans in connection with the installation of new furnaces are submitted, the Local Authority has to be satisfied that the heights of chimneys are such that no smoke nuisances will be likely to arise.

Smoke is poisonous and it would be a pity if any tendency emerged to reverse the responsibility for polluting the atmosphere as between town and country, by application of the Clean Air Act in the former and not in the latter.

HOUSING.

UNFIT HOUSES

Housing Act, 1957.

S2(1) reads as follows:-

"It shall be the duty of a local authority in carrying out their functions under Parts II and III of this Act to have regard to the proposals in that behalf submitted by them to the Minister and approved by him before the commencement of this Act under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, but subject to any modifications made by subsequent proposals approved by the Minister under this section."

S3(1) reads as follows:-

"It shall be the duty of every local authority to cause an inspection of their district to be made from time to time with a view to ascertaining whether any house therein is unfit for human habitation, and for that purpose it shall be the duty of the local authority, and of every officer of the local authority, to comply with such regulations and to keep such records as the Minister may prescribe."

S.157(1) reads as follows:-

"The Medical Officer of Health of a local authority shall make an official representation to the authority whenever he is of the opinion that any house in their district is unfit for human habitation, or that any area in their district is an area which should be dealt with as a clearance area."

(2) If any justice of the peace acting for the district of a local authority or, in the case of a rural district, the parish council of any parish within that area, complain to the medical officer of health in writing that any house is unfit for human habitation or that any area should be dealt with as a clearance area, it shall be his duty forthwith to inspect that house or that area and to make a report to the local authority, stating the facts of the case and whether, in his opinion, the house is unfit for human habitation or whether, in his opinion, the area should be dealt with as a clearance area, but the absence of any such complaint shall not excuse him from inspecting any house or area or making a representation thereon to the local authority.

(3) A local authority shall as soon as may be take into consideration any official representation which has been made to them."

et seq.

It has not been possible personally to undertake any duties under this section but an effort has been made to give a resume of progress made in the first five years since the Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, in so far as the information has been made available to me.

An estimate of category 5 houses, unfit for human habitation, was arrived at for the purposes of the above Act, based on earlier records and any information obtainable. Members of Council were requested to assist by bringing forward for inspection any properties which they considered to be sub-standard. Three such lists were presented.

The estimate arrived at was 285 houses which were subsequently subjected to detailed scrutiny by staff at a time when two additional public health inspectors were engaged on field work. This detailed scrutiny resulted in 162 houses being categorised by staff as not repairable at reasonable expense, a modest figure for a district of this size.

By the end of 1957 the Council had made Demolition Orders on thirty of these properties, Closing Orders on ten, and had accepted "Undertakings for closure

on vacation" (not an "Undertaking" in the terms of the 1957 Housing Act.) on forty-three, making a total of eighty three houses officially accepted by the Council as being beyond repair out of the original estimate of 285, as amended by detailed inspection by staff to 162.

At the end of 1957 the fate of the 30 houses on which Demolition Orders were originally placed was as follows:-

Demolished.....	21
Occupied.....	9

The position at the end of 1959 with respect to the nine occupied is not yet available.

The fate of the ten properties with closing orders and of the 43 dwellings upon which action was deferred, has not yet been elucidated but a record of this up to the end of 1959 may be traced in time for the next annual report.

In 79 of the original 162 houses undertakings to repair were accepted but subsequent records are not yet available to me.

123 of the original 285 houses were upgraded from category 5 after inspection, in a number of cases where the property had changed hands the new owner had undertaken works of repair, in others the properties were found on inspection to be better than originally estimated.

Exclusive of the original detailed survey based upon the estimated 285 houses, further recommendations were made by public health inspectors during 1958 and 1959, as follows:-

1958 - Houses reported as not repairable at reasonable expense.....	20
1959 - Houses reported as not repairable at reasonable expense.....	7

Of these 27 houses it is understood that the Council placed Demolition Orders on six and accepted "Undertakings" on 21. The final position at the end of 1959 is not known but it is hoped to present up to date figures of progress in my next Annual Report.

In addition to the detailed survey of the original estimate of 285 houses, special detailed surveys have been made in Sixpenny Handley and in Holt, the recommendations as to unfit houses having been included in the above figures.

In the case of Sixpenny Handley three houses were represented for demolition and were demolished, 94 were recommended for improvement grants, 14 received a grant and 27 notices requiring repairs were served.

In the case of Holt, 7 houses were recommended as unfit, two were repaired, one was demolished, and "undertakings" were accepted on three. 65 were recommended for improvement grants; 10 received one, and 25 notices were served requiring repairs.

Most of the district has never been subjected to detailed survey though the findings in Sixpenny Handley and Holt amply reveal the value of such surveys. It is regretted that since the early part of 1957 shortage of staff has militated against the achievement of a comprehensive housing survey, and much good would stem from an effective department capable of pressing on with such a detailed survey and following up the findings.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Applications for these have now become extremely rare, and it is interesting to note that in no instance has action by a Certificate of Disrepair achieved the modernisation of a property or an improvement in housing standards. Such works of repair that have been carried out have usually been of a minor character, and where properties have been in an advanced state of disrepair this Act has not been of assistance.

THE HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT.

This came into force during the year and enabled owners to claim, as of right, specified sums towards the provision of standard amenities. During the six months the Act was operative some 29 applications were approved which involved a total grant expenditure of £4225. The total number of amenities provided consisted of 26 baths, 29 hot water systems, 28 wash basins, 26 water closets and 22 food stores. This Act enabled some 14 houses in excellent structural condition to be provided with modern amenities and a further 15 properties with a useful future life to be provided with modern amenities, at a reasonable cost to the Owners. For various reasons the application of the twelve point standard for Discretionary Grants to these 15 houses did not present a favourable financial proposition and it is interesting to note that for such a moderate capital expenditure the useful life of this type of property can be further extended.

The number of applications for Discretionary Grants indicates an improvement over the previous year. During the year under review 55 applications for Discretionary Grants were approved in respect of 67 dwellings involving a total expenditure of £18,559. This represents an average expenditure of £277. per dwelling.

It will be noted, therefore, that a total of 96 dwellings were modernised by the application of both grants. Progress on certain of the larger Estates is still extremely slow and 50% of the dwellings modernised were owner/occupied.

A few outstanding cases of hardship allied to housing need were brought to my notice by County Council Staff during the year, and they appear to stem predominantly from Council policy as outlined in the Minutes in 1956, from which I quote:-

(ii) - " As a general policy Demolition Orders be made in respect of unfit properties, with the exception of those occupied by old people and that Undertakings by the owners be normally accepted in those cases."

Though this Minute appears incompatible with a following one, as follows:-

(iv) - " Priority be given to persons requiring re-housing from unsatisfactory houses when selecting tenants for casual vacancies in Council houses, " which latter Minute appears to have faithfully anticipated Section 113 of the Housing Act, 1957, the first part of which reads:-

"(1) A local authority shall in relation to all the houses and dwellings in respect of which they are required to keep a Housing Revenue Account, observe the requirements specified in the following provisions of this section.

(2) The local authority shall secure that in the selection of their tenants a reasonable preference is given to persons who are occupying insanitary or overcrowded houses, have large families or are living under unsatisfactory housing conditions."

The County Council health visiting staff, who are fully trained nurses and midwives who have subsequently undergone full-time academic training and examinations to qualify as health visitors, undertake routine visiting of elderly persons. In the course of these duties a Health Visitor asked me to visit Mrs. H of Corfe Mullen. Mrs. H was over 70 years of age and had been crippled for life at the age of 17 years, when she sustained a knee injury in an accident. Her cottage was reached, from an isolated stretch of country road, via two fields, the first being a bog except in very dry weather. Mrs. H. was immobilised without a bicycle, which she had to push through the bog and under a pole fixed to keep cows out of the second field. Her cottage was in a desperately dilapidated condition, the whole of the end having already collapsed, with timbers and walls hanging suspended. A chimney stack was

eroded at the base. The forecourt was of very uneven brick liable to trip an elderly person and lead to a broken thigh, pneumonia and death. Had Mrs. H sustained such an injury this sequence would have been very rapid for no one would have become aware of her plight in such an isolated situation. The lavatory was a bucket reached through a one time garden plot. From the head of the stairs a large patch of sky was visible through the roof and a tin bath was placed to collect the rain. Two other receptacles were permanently in situ for a similar purpose where the roof leaked. The noise of rain dripping or pouring into these receptacles was disturbing at night and Mrs. H had placed newspapers in the receptacles to deaden the sound. The general condition of the cottage, which was neat and tidy, was one of extreme disrepair and severe structural weakness. Mrs. H. had been on the housing list for some time and was justifiably somewhat despairing as to her prospects. Her own doctor was very concerned about her accommodation, despite her remarkable stoicism and fortitude.

The photograph shows the premises as they were in January last. Further deterioration had ensued, the main hole in the roof having become appreciably bigger and a window had been completely eroded away.

I am extremely grateful to the Chairman of the Housing Committee for his kind intervention in this case, when he accompanied me to inspect the premises after a chimney stack had crashed to the ground, and was instrumental in immediate re-housing of Mrs. H. The latter was very grateful for her modern little bungalow at the extreme opposite end of the rural district and has lived there happily ever since.

Her old cottage remains a severe menace to adventurous boys.

Mrs. G. lived in a rather ruinous little caravan, the roof of which proved too rotten to hold nails when the site owner endeavoured to stop a leak with felt and battens. She was partially blind and therefore unable to keep her caravan free from all traces of debris, being unable to see dust and small debris.

She applied for a Council house in 1955 and this application was supported by the County Medical Officer of Health. Her own doctor subsequently approached me for help in securing Mrs. G suitable Council accommodation. I was ultimately asked by the Housing Committee to call a small conference of interested social and medical workers together with Council representatives. Unfortunately this conference split exactly along the lines of district authority representatives on the one side, and all the social and medical workers including four doctors, on the other. The former considered that she should go into a chronic sick hospital, all the latter, including the general practitioner and the medical superintendent of the chronic sick hospital, considered that she would best be helped by the provision of an old person's bungalow type of dwelling, and that she was not suitable for chronic sick hospital.

It is regretted that the Council representatives could not accept the advice of four doctors, the nurses and welfare workers in this case and that they finally regarded Mrs. G. as suitable only for chronic sick bed facilities. This has resulted in Mrs. G. remaining in her very unfit accommodation for the last six years. Pressure on chronic sick beds is very severe, and fairly urgent cases frequently have to wait quite long periods, it is therefore very essential to avoid blocking beds with unsuitable cases both from humanitarian and secondarily economic aspects.

Miss B. lived in a rather isolated village in an old property with her severely crippled Mother, who was very dependent. Miss B. suffered from a chronic condition which rendered her physically unable to draw more than a small quantity of water at a time from the ten foot well in the garden.

During 1958 a consultant physician wrote to the County Medical Officer of Health requesting help in re-housing this young girl and her crippled mother near to Wimborne. Her own doctor appealed to me for help similarly, there being apt reasons for believing that a complete change of environment and proximity to potential part-time work might profoundly alter the girl's condition.

Further appeals have been made on the girl's behalf, and it is very much regretted that the pleas of four doctors, including a consultant physician and the general practitioner, have proved of no avail. Both the girl and her mother remain alive and it might yet be possible to achieve some benefit by the provision of suitable accommodation close to Wimborne.

The K family, numbering eleven in 1959, have occupied a severely unfit cottage for twelve years, consisting essentially of two up and one down. The inner bedroom is approached via the outer, and little privacy, comfort or amenity is present. Four children in this family have enjoyed grammar school education but one cannot help pondering on the handicap to home-work and education imposed upon a child by these grossly overcrowded and unsatisfactory living conditions. The overcrowding has in fact exceeded the 1957 Housing Act standards for overcrowding since May 1952, severely so in latter years. (The structure is now described as structurally unsound and a demolition order has been placed upon it.)

An elderly widow renting a cottage in Verwood and suffering from pernicious anaemia was brought to my notice by a health visitor because of her unsuitable living conditions. On inspection of the premises I found a rotten and dangerous floor board in the bedroom, dangerously steep and narrow stairs, poor ventilation, uneven brick flooring, a fungus four to five inches in diameter on an internal doorpost, which the tenant had left for my inspection having recently returned from hospital, and pallid fungoid growths exuding into the room through cracks in the floor boards of the living room. The tenant informed me that she had previously stayed with friends and returned to find the base of her sofa growing fungi, so damp was the house. The old person's liaison health visitor managed to find a vacancy in an old persons' home for this elderly woman, who was sufficiently desperate about her accommodation to agree to go, though she was capable of maintaining an independent existence in suitable accommodation, such as would be provided by an old persons' bungalow.

Complaints were received from tenants and health visitors, and a report given to the Housing Committee about the serious problem of condensation in certain types of council bungalows. These bungalows were built at a time when the Ministry imposed severe financial stringency and when wood was scarce. The design and construction appears to lead to much worse condensation than is normally met, and walls frequently run with moisture. Certain areas of wall where air movement is always restricted are permanently infected with black mould which grows through fresh distemper within one month of its application. The floors not uncommonly exhibit confluent pools of condensation which leads to deterioration of furniture, books and fitments.

Conditions are particularly difficult where there are babies and toddlers, who can get quite wet when crawling on damp floors. Extra mobile heaters such as paraffin stoves, add excessively to the amount of water vapour in the rooms. Electrical heaters carry with them a risk of electric shock bearing in mind the highly earthing condition of damp solid floors. All forms of mobile heaters present some risk to babies, children and old people. The more ventilation the colder the walls and floors become and the more readily condensation occurs upon them.

Washday is particularly trying in these houses, especially where small children add greatly to the wash.

This is a very difficult problem to solve by reason of the financial implications, but it might appear to many to be a reasonable contention that a room which presents pools of water on the floor and wet walls fails to come up to the standard of fitness as laid down by Section 4 (c) of the Housing Act, 1957, which refers to "freedom from damp".

OVERCROWDING

(a) Two families were known to be overcrowded, having been reported by health visitors on the County staff. This small list is not put forward as exhaustive as in the absence of detailed inspection of the district there may have been others which were unrecorded.

One house was occupied by a single large family unit of eleven, another by a family of ten.

(b) No new cases were reported.

(c) No cases of overcrowding were relieved.

(d) No cases in respect of which steps have been taken for abatement of overcrowding have again become overcrowded.

(e) The worst case of overcrowding has already been reported in the text. A family of eleven, the father being a farm labourer in steady employment, occupied a cottage which was severely defective by most of the standards laid down in Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957. In view of the severe lack of amenities in this cottage, even of somewhere to store the large collection of clothes, the mother of this family has managed with commendable stoicism. She has attended with her young children for all protective inoculations and four

of her children have received grammar school education. She deserves better circumstances.

Another family, the young members of which had previously been found flea infested and passing on the infestation at school, occupied another substandard cottage, (subsequently reported to committee under several heads and some action taken, which will be recorded in the 1960 Annual Report)

FACTORIES ACT, 1957

PART ONE - Health (General Provisions)

The first seven sections of this Act contains provisions concerning cleanliness, freedom from effluvia and nuisances, overcrowding, temperature, fumes, circulation of fresh air and ventilation, natural and artificial lighting, drainage of floors, and provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

S. 8. reads as follows:-

- (1) The foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act relating to sanitary conveniences and any regulations made thereunder shall be enforced by the district council.
- (2) The foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors and any order or regulations made thereunder shall, as respects any factory in which mechanical power is not used be enforced by the district council :
Provided that:-
(a) in the case of any class or description of factory or parts thereof in respect of which special provision is made by this Act or any order or regulation made thereunder, against a risk of industrial disease or other risk of injury to health, the Secretary of State may by order direct that the said provisions or any of them shall not be enforced by the district council; et seq.
- (3) Every district council shall keep a register of all factories situate within their district with respect to which the duty of enforcing any of the said provisions is imposed upon them.
- (4) For reference in any of the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act to an inspector there shall, as respects any factory or part thereof in which that provision is enforceable by a district council, be substituted references to a medical officer of health.

Number of Factories Registered in the district.....	98
Number of Inspections made during the year.....	96

Premises.

	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	13	17
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.....	85	79
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority. (Excluding Outworkers' premises).....	Nil	Nil
	<u>98</u>	<u>96</u>

Number of Cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>
1. Want of cleanliness.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Other offences against the Act.....	2	2	Nil

Two upholsterers' premises are registered under the above Act.

PART III - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

NUISANCES AND OFFENSIVE TRADES
General Duties of Local
Authority.

S. 91

"It shall be the duty of every local authority to cause their district to be inspected from time to time for the detection of matters requiring to be dealt with under the provisions of this Part of this Act as being statutory nuisances within the meaning of the next succeeding section.

S. 92

(1) Without prejudice to the exercise by a local authority of any other powers vested in them by or under this Act, the following matters may, subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, be dealt with summarily, and are in this Part of this Act referred to as "statutory nuisances," that is to say:-

- (a) any premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance;
- (b) any animal kept in such a place or manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance;
- (c) any accumulation or deposit which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance.
- (d) any dust or effluvia caused by any trade, business, manufacture or process and being prejudicial to the health of, or nuisance to, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood;
- (e) any factory (not being a factory to which section one of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 applies), workshop, or workplace, which is not provided with sufficient means of ventilation, or in which sufficient ventilation is not maintained, or which is not kept clean or not kept free from noxious effluvia, or which is so overcrowded while work is carried on as to be prejudicial to the health of those employed therein;
- (f) any other matter declared by any provision of this Act to be a statutory nuisance.

S. 101 - Smoke Nuisance.

For the purpose of this Part of this Act:-

- (a) any installation for the combustion of fuel which is used in any manufacturing or trade process, or for working engines by steam, and which does not so far as practicable prevent the emission of smoke to the atmosphere; and
 - (b) any chimney (not being the chimney of a private house) emitting smoke in such quantity as to be a nuisance,
- shall be statutory nuisances and are in this Act referred to as "smoke nuisances."

S. 141 - Provisions for the protection of public from polluted water.

Any well, tank, cistern, or water-butt used for the supply of water for domestic purposes which is so placed, constructed or kept as to render the water therein liable to contamination prejudicial to health, shall be a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of this Act.

S.259 (1) - Watercourses, ditches, ponds, etc.

The following matters shall be statutory nuisances for the purposes of Part III of this Act, that is to say:-

- (a) any pond, pool, ditch, gutter or watercourse which is so foul or in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance;
- (b) any part of a watercourse, not being a part ordinarily navigated by vessels employed in the carriage of goods by water, which is so choked or silted up as to obstruct or impede the proper flow of water and thereby to cause a nuisance, or give rise to conditions prejudicial to health :

Provided that in the case of an alleged nuisance under paragraph (b) nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to impose any liability on any person other than the person by whose act or default the nuisance arises or continues.

S. 268 - Tents, vans, sheds etc.

(2) For the purposes of the said Part III, a tent, van, shed or similar structure used for human habitation:-

- (a) which is in such a state, or so overcrowded, as to be prejudicial to the health of the inmates; or
- (b) the use of which by reason of the absence of proper sanitary accommodation or otherwise, gives rise, whether on the site or on other land, to a nuisance or to conditions prejudicial to health,

shall be a statutory nuisance, and the expression "occupier" in relation to a tent, van, shed or similar structure shall include any person for the time being in charge thereof.

Service of abatement notice.

S.93 - Where a local authority are satisfied of the existence of a statutory nuisance, they shall serve a notice (hereafter in this Act referred to as "an abatement notice") on the person by whose act, default or sufferance the nuisance arises or continues, or, if that person cannot be found, on the owner or occupier of the premises on which the nuisance arise, requiring him to abate the nuisance and to execute such works and take such steps as may be necessary for that purpose:

Provided that:-

- (a) where the nuisance arises from any defect of a structural character, the notice shall be served on the owner of the premises;
- (b) where the person causing the nuisance cannot be found and it is clear that the nuisance does not arise or continue by the act, default or sufferance of the owner or the occupier of the premises, the local authority may themselves do forthwith what they consider necessary to abate the nuisance and to prevent a recurrence thereof.

S. 94 (1)

If the person on whom an abatement notice has been served makes default in complying with any of the requirements of the notice, or if the nuisance, although abated since the service of the notice, is, in the opinion of the local authority, likely to recur on the same premises, the authority shall cause a complaint to be made to a justice of the peace, and the justice shall thereupon issue a summons requiring the person on whom the notice was served to appear before a court of summary jurisdiction.

(2) If on the hearing of the complaint it is proved that the alleged nuisance exists, or that although abated it is likely to recur on the same premises, then, subject to the provisions of subsections (4) and (5) of this section the court shall make an order (hereafter in this Act referred to as "a nuisance order") for either, or both, of the following purposes:-

- (a) requiring the defendant to comply with all or any of the requirements of the abatement notice, or otherwise to abate the nuisance, within a time specified in the order, and to execute any works necessary for that purpose;
- (b) prohibiting a recurrence of the nuisance, and requiring the defendant, within a time specified in the order, to execute any works necessary to prevent a recurrence ;

and may also impose on the defendant a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Where a nuisance proved to exist is such as to render a building, in the opinion of the court, unfit for human habitation, the nuisance order may prohibit the use of the building for that purpose until a court of summary jurisdiction, being satisfied that it has been rendered fit for human habitation, withdraws the prohibition.

S. 95

(1) Any person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with, or knowingly contravenes, a nuisance order shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds and to a further fine not exceeding forty shillings for each day on which the offence continues after conviction therefor.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this section, where a nuisance order has not been complied with, the local authority may abate the nuisance, and do whatever may be necessary in execution of the order.

S. 96

(1) Any expenses reasonably incurred by a local authority under this Part of this Act in abating, or preventing the recurrence of, a statutory nuisance in respect of which a nuisance order has been made may be recovered by them:-

(a) where the order was made on some person other than the local authority, from that person;

(b) where the order was made on the local authority, from the person by whose act or default the nuisance was caused,

and in either case, if the person in question is the owner of the premises, from any person who is for the time being the owner thereof.

S.99.

Complaint of the existence of a statutory nuisance under this Act may be made to a justice of the peace by any person aggrieved by the nuisance, and thereupon the like proceedings shall be had, with the like incidents and consequences as to the making of orders, penalties for disobedience of orders and otherwise, as is the case of a complaint by the local authority, but any order made in such proceedings may, if the court after giving the local authority an opportunity of being heard thinks fit, direct the authority to abate the nuisance.

S. 322 - Relinquishment and transfer of powers and duties.

(1) If:-

(i) a complaint is made to the Minister that any council, port health authority, or joint board have failed to discharge their functions under this Act in any case where they ought to have done so; or

(ii) the Minister is of opinion that an investigation should be made as to whether any council, port health authority or joint board have failed as aforesaid,

The Minister may cause a local inquiry to be held into the matter.

(2)

If, after a local inquiry has been held in pursuance either of this section or of the last preceding section, the Minister is satisfied that there has been such a failure on the part of the council, authority or board in question, he may make an order declaring them to be in default and directing them for the purpose of removing the default to discharge such of their functions, and in such a manner and within such time or times, as may be specified in the order.

(3)

If a council, authority or board with respect to whom an order has been made under the last preceding subsection fail to comply with any requirement thereof within the time limited thereby for compliance with that requirement, the Minister, in lieu of enforcing the order by mandamus or otherwise, may:-

(i) if the body in default are the council of a county district, or a joint board whose district lies wholly within one county, or a port health authority whose district (so far as it does not consist of water) lies wholly within one county, make an order transferring to the council of the county such of the functions of the body in default as may be specified in his order;

- (ii) In any other case, make an order transferring to himself such of the functions of the body in default as may be so specified.

BATTERY AND BROILER HOUSES.

Public Health problems in connection with large scale chicken and egg production have arisen during latter years.

Three establishments have given cause for complaint from the public.

One establishment was engaged in the preparation of birds for the table. It was not regarded as conforming with the Food Hygiene Regulations and after several visits from your staff and consideration in the Public Health Committee the premises were vacated.

Another establishment gave rise to complaint by reason of a persistently obnoxious smoke nuisance from burning feathers. Three nearby residents formed a deputation to me. Your additional public health inspector was offered physical violence on the site by an operative but tactfully declined. The premises were vacated soon afterwards.

A private householder complained of a serious nuisance due to flies. Her house was closely adjacent to numerous large battery hen houses in a state of some disrepair. In particular droppings could easily escape through defective flooring to the ground below and thereby enormously facilitate the breeding life cycle of the house fly, which requires manure or rotten organic matter, coupled with access to earth.

This house was literally humming with flies and the housewife was clearly distraught by weeks of endurance of such offensive conditions. She emptied the bag of her vacuum cleaner to display the dead and dying remains of the morning's "bag". The house was kept permanently sprayed and flies were continually dying, going through the familiar dirty and noisy "agonies" of death by D.D.T. Poisoning.

This housewife expressed her grim determination to vacate these premises at the earliest opportunity and no longer wished for intervention for this reason.

These conditions were nevertheless in my opinion a nuisance and obviously prejudicial to the health of the housewife and her family and a repetition of the sequence, house purchase, despair, house sale, should be subjected to adequate inspection and the impact of the Public Health Act.

A complaint was directed to the Council by a neighbouring Authority relating to the polluted condition of a stream arising in the rural district.

Records of pollution go back to early 1955.

This stream flows for about two miles within and on the border of your district, communicating in its lower reaches with an extensive backwater. The pollution is believed to be due to industrial waste dipping acid reaching the headwaters of the stream by percolation through the ground, and includes the presence of copper and zinc, the three substances together, or even separately, constituting a lethal environment for fish.

A householder through whose garden the stream passes complains of the destruction of his natural watercress bed (highly susceptible to copper), the death of his goldfish in an ornamental pond fed by the stream (susceptible to acid, copper or zinc in observed concentration), and the death of shrubs (susceptible to the highly abnormal soil conditions).

A farmer some half a mile downstream complains that he has been deprived of the amenity of the stream for watering his cattle.

It is accepted international scientific practice to ^dprescribe acidity and alkalinity in terms of pH, which is a figure on a scale from 0 to 14 representing all degrees of acidity and alkalinity. Neutrality is represented by the figure 7, from 7 to 14 represents increasing alkalinity up to that of strong caustic, from 7 to 0 represents increasing acidity up to that of corrosive mineral acid. Each unit progressing away from 7 indicates ten times the acidity or alkalinity of the previous figure. It is generally held that "neutral", potable waters range from pH 6 to 8. The pH of vinegar is about 3.

The following pH figures were obtained in 1959 from this stream and its sources:-

21.8.59.....	2.65	
26.8.59.....	2.75	
27.8.59.....	2.0	
27.8.59.....	4.15	
9.9.59.....	7.4	{above source of pollution}
9.9.59.....	5.0	{below source of pollution}
15.9.59.....	7.4	{above source of pollution}
15.9.59.....	5.8	{below source of pollution}
16.9.59.....	7.2	{above source of pollution}
16.9.59.....	5.8	{below source of pollution}
17.9.59.....	7.4	{above source of pollution}
17.9.59.....	5.8	{below source of pollution}
29.9.59.....	2.85	
22.10.59.....	3	{and pH3 about one mile away}
23.10.59.....	2.8	{and about pH3 at various points up to about a mile away}
28.10.59.....	6 +	{above source of pollution}
28.10.59.....	2.8 to 5.4	{at various points in vicinity of headwaters.}

On the 14th October, 1959, this stream was sampled at intervals for over two miles, yielding consistently a pH of 4, at least 100 x the normal slight acidity of the stream, including samples from a back water about ten feet wide and 3 or 4 ft deep.

Copper up to the value of 10 ppm has been found, lethal to fish in even slightly acid natural waters.

Zinc up to the value of 5 ppm has been found, likewise lethal to fish in slightly acid natural waters.

Much staff time which could be ill afforded was involved in obtaining the above results, coupled with analyst's fees.

No effective mitigation was observed at the end of the year and further extensive investigations will be reported in my Annual Report for 1960.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered has increased from 90 to 95.

292 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:-

<u>PARISH.</u>	<u>GRADE 1..</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Alderholt	7	-	-	-	7
Chalbury	2	-	-	-	2
Colehill	16	6	-	-	22
Corfe Mullen	29	-	-	-	29
Cranborne	12	-	-	-	12
Gussage All Saints	2	1	-	-	3
Hampreston	61	8	4	1	74
Hinton Martell	6	-	-	1	7
Holt	4	1	-	-	5
Horton	5	1	1	-	7
Pamphill	3	-	-	-	3
Shapwick	1	-	1	-	2
Sixpenny Handley	3	1	-	2	6
Sturminster Marshall	12	1	-	-	13
Verwood	32	3	1	-	36
West Moors	25	4	-	-	29
West Parley	20	1	-	-	21
Witchampton	3	2	2	3	10
Woodlands.	4	-	-	-	4
TOTALS.....	247	29	9	7	292

<u>PRODUCER.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>GRADES.</u> <u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CLOVER	7	1	-	-	8
GREEMIER	44	15	6	3	68
ELDORADO	31	-	-	1	32
FORTES	3	-	-	-	3
LYONS	50	5	1	-	56
NEILSONS	24	-	-	-	24
WALLS	88	8	2	3	101
TOTALS.....	247	29	9	7	292

CARCASES INSPECTED.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>Excluding</u> Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number Killed.....	4346	3482	4903	21478	17229	Nil
Number Inspected.....	4346	3482	4903	21478	17229	Nil
<u>All diseases</u> <u>except tuberculosis</u> <u>and cysticerci</u> Whole Carcasses condemned.....	7	106	52	129	176	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2022	2138	8	1746	2290	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	5	1	-	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	27	15	-	-	262	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	29	23	-	-	-	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	15	8	-	-	-	Nil

----- 0 -----

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>MILK SAMPLES</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alderholt.		2	-	2
Hampreston.		2	-	2
Verwood.		2	-	2

----- 0 -----

RODENT CONTROL

	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Agric.</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number of visits made by staff.....	4	1994	408	217	2623
Total number of premises inspected (a) on complaints.....	1	136	70	18	225
(b) on survey.....	-	2124	344	235	2703
Total number of premises found infested:-					
(a) on complaints.....	1	150	80	-	231
(b) on survey.....	1	280	50	20	351
Number of premises treated....	2	118	25	24	169
Number of premises cleared....	1	91	19	10	121
Re-treated and cleared.....	-	30	16	8	54
Number of pre baits laid.....	400	8849	2629	900	12778
Number of poison baits laid...	120	304	90	50	564
Number of Post baits laid.....	60	310	130	44	544
Number of instances where other methods used.	-	2700	1462	214	4376
Estimated number of rats destroyed. 204		1120	445	190	1959
Number of bodies of rats recovered. 68		370	119	60	617

MICE

Number of complaints received.....	-	18	16	-	34
Number of premises treated.....	-	18	16	-	34
Number of premises cleared.....	-	16	10	-	26

WATER SUPPLIES
PRIVATE

<u>PARISH</u>	Class 1.	2.	3.	4.	TOTAL
Alderholt	4	-	-	-	4
Chalbury	-	-	-	1	1
Colchill	1	-	2	1	4
Corfe Mullen	-	-	-	1	1
Cranborne	18	1	-	-	19
Edmonsham	-	-	-	1	1
Gussage All Saints	5	-	-	-	5
Holt	2	-	1	2	5
Horton	2	-	-	3	5
Sixpenny Handley	2	-	-	-	2
Sturminster Marshall	3	1	-	-	4
Verwood	-	-	-	4	4
Wimborne St. Giles	19	2	2	11	34
<u>TOTALS</u>	56	4	5	24	89

PUBLIC

Alderholt.	4	-	-	-	4
Colchill.	2	-	-	-	2
Corfe Mullen.	1	-	-	-	1
Cranborne.	3	-	-	-	3
Gussage All Saints.	1	-	-	-	1
Gussage St. Michaels.	1	-	-	-	1
Holt	2	-	-	-	2
Sixpenny Handley.	1	-	-	-	1
Sturminster Marshall.	1	-	-	-	1
Verwood.	1	-	-	-	1
West Parley	1	-	-	-	1
Witchampton.	1	-	-	-	1
<u>TOTALS.....</u>	19	-	-	-	19

